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# Indigenous Knowledge Governance Framework (IKGF)

## A Holistic Model for Indigenous Knowledge Management

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**Abstract**—The environmental and social conditions that indigenous communities interact with the external environment are characterized by a constantly increasing degree of complexity. The interaction between different cultures can be considered a multifaceted process of negotiation. It is well acknowledged that the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for indigenous cultural preservation and revitalization can lead to several challenges. In this context, Indigenous Knowledge (IK) represents a critical resource that needs to be focused towards specific processes and governance activities. The early efforts in knowledge management were on technologies to store, capture, and distribute knowledge, while the focus at present has shifted to make explicit, the tacit knowledge, but the development is more conceptual than practical. This study focuses on exploring the patterns of Indigenous Knowledge Management (IKM) and the supporting of a governance system of communities. Based on generic patterns of IKM, the goal of the research will be in developing an indigenous knowledge governance framework.

**Keywords** - Indigenous knowledge; Indigenous knowledge management; Indigenous knowledge governance.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Development organizations recognize Indigenous Knowledge (IK) as resource that can help to solve local problems, to help grow more and better food, to maintain healthy lives, to share wealth, to prevent conflict, to manage local affairs, and thus contribute to global solutions [1].

The environmental and social conditions that indigenous communities interact with the non-indigenous communities are characterized by a constantly increasing complexity. This complexity comes from factors such as globalization that make the external environment constantly larger and competitive. The communities become aware of how important it is to manage and share their internal and external knowledge in order to easily adapt to the rapid changes of the surrounding environment. In this context, knowledge represents a critical resource that needs to be focused towards specific processes and governance activities. The Open Data movement is an

example. Open data movement is a very significant, and potentially powerful, emerging force that is endorsed by among others, Tim Berners-Lee (Inventor of the World Wide Web) [2]. There are significant initiatives in this area underway in the US, the UK and Canada among many other jurisdictions. The underlying idea is that public (and other) data, whether collected directly as part of census collection or indirectly as a secondary output of other activities (crime or accident statistics for example) should be available in electronic form and accessible via the web.

This study will adapt the use of current knowledge management tools in the realization of a holistic approach to model Indigenous Knowledge Governance Framework (IKGF). The newly formulated Malaysia National ICT R & D framework (Fig. 1) [3] emphasizes on the provision of info-structures via tools, technologies and methodologies to support knowledge management (ranging from acquisition, through organization to application) as well as develop creative content with core competency in providing various media content, access, services and products. Our proposed research will support the third layer (Knowledge Management) of the National ICT R & D framework.

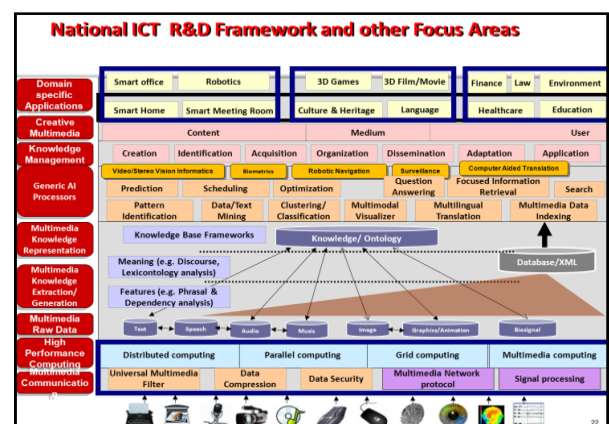


Figure 1. Malaysian Generic National ICT R & D framework.